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# Health Issues

June 2009

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Glossary

Lab technicians demonstrate one of the steps involved in identifying the H1N1 virus, also known as swine flu, at the New York City Public Health Laboratory in New York, Sunday, May 3, 2009.  
(AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

**07 May 2009**

**Obama Proposes Massive Global Health Initiative**

**Merle David Kellerhals Jr.**

**Department of State Staff Writer**

Washington — The United States is launching a six-year global health initiative that will help some of the poorest regions of the world fight health challenges that kill people who could otherwise be saved with improved health care, says President Obama.

“That is why I am asking Congress to approve my fiscal year 2010 budget request of \$8.6 billion — and \$63 billion over six years — to shape a new, comprehensive global health strategy,” Obama said.

“We cannot wall ourselves off from the world and hope for the best, nor ignore the public health challenges beyond our borders.”

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said the initiative will become a crucial component of American foreign policy. Investments in global programs to fight HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other preventable diseases will save lives and reduce maternal and child deaths, she said.

Deputy Secretary of State Jack Lew told reporters at a White House briefing May 5 that the global health initiative goes beyond current programs designed to fight HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis and will begin addressing the health needs of women, children and families in developing nations. It is also designed to curb the impact of neglected tropical diseases.

**MORE:**

<http://www.america.gov/st/peacesec-english/2009/May/20090507095154dmslahrellek0.7992975.html?CP.rss=true>

**Transcripts of President Obama’s remarks on the global health initiative:**

<http://www.america.gov/st/texttrans-english/2009/May/20090505165154eaifas0.283897.html>

**Transcript of Secretary Clinton’s remarks on the global health initiative:**

<http://www.america.gov/st/texttrans-english/2009/May/20090505174936eaifas0.7123529.html>

## PUBLIC HEALTH, DIET, NUTRITION AND PREVENTION.....6

RECREATIONAL WATER ILLNESS AWARENESS WEEK, MAY 18-24. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) .....	6
GLOBAL HEALTH, Spring 2009. Global Health Council .....	6
DRUG EDUCATION ALSO HELPS CURB RISKY SEXUAL BEHAVIOR. RAND, April 29, 2009 .....	6
PRESIDENT OBAMA'S ADDRESS: REVERSING A TROUBLING TREND IN FOOD SAFETY, March 14, 2009 .....	7
KEEPING AMERICA'S FOOD SAFE: A BLUEPRINT FOR FIXING THE FOOD SAFETY SYSTEM AT THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES. Trust for America's Health (TFAH) and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) March 2009 .....	7
CANCER AND THE GOVERNMENT. Michael D. Tanner.Cato.org, May 11, 2009. ....	7
ACTION STEPS FOR IMPROVING WOMEN'S MENTAL HEALTH. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office on Women's Health, May 2009.....	8
WOMEN'S MENTAL HEALTH: WHAT IT MEANS TO YOU. (OWH09-CONSUMER) U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office on Women's Health.....	8
MULTIVITAMINS MIGHT PROLONG LIFE: BY PRESERVING PROTECTIVE ENDS OF DNA, AGING MIGHT BE SLOWED, STUDY SUGGESTS. By Steven Reinberg, HealthDay Reporter.....	8
DO ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS HELP OR HINDER MEDICAL EDUCATION? PLoS Medicine. Jonathan U. Peled et al. May 12, 2009.....	9
THE PREVENTABLE CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE UNITED STATES: COMPARATIVE RISK ASSESSMENT OF DIETARY, LIFESTYLE, AND METABOLIC RISK FACTORS. PLoS Medicine. Goodarz Danaei et al. April 28, 2009. ....	9
HEART ATTACK ENTREES AND SIDE ORDERS OF STROKE: THE SALT IN RESTAURANT MEALS IS SABOTAGING YOUR HEALTH. Center for Science in the Public Interest. May 11, 2009.....	9
WOMEN AT RISK: WHY MANY WOMEN ARE FORGOING NEEDED HEALTH CARE. Commonwealth Fund. Sheila D. Rustgi et al. May 11, 2009. ....	9
“CONTACT YOUR DOCTOR”: BAD ADVICE? Urban Institute. Robert A. Berenson. May 8, 2009.....	10
REACHING AMERICA'S HEALTH POTENTIAL: A STATE-BY-STATE LOOK AT ADULT HEALTH. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. May 6, 2009.....	10
HARD TIMES IN THE HEARTLAND. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. May 4, 2009.....	10
POLICIES AND PRACTICES TO ADVANCE GLOBAL HEALTH TECHNOLOGIES. Christopher J. Elias. CSIS Global Health Policy Center, April 20, 2009.....	10
THE PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL OF CHINA'S PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY. By Roger Bate, Karen Porter. AEI Health Policy Outlook, April 2009. AEI Online .....	11
INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AND HEALTH. United Nations World Health Organization. Web posted April 17, 2009.....	11
PRELIMINARY FOOD NET DATA ON THE INCIDENCE OF INFECTION WITH PATHOGENS TRANSMITTED COMMONLY THROUGH FOOD – 10 STATES, 2008. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. April 10, 2009. ....	11
FINANCIAL AND HEALTH BURDENS OF CHRONIC CONDITIONS GROW. Center for Studying Health System Change. Ha T. Tu and Genna R. Cohen. April 2009.....	11
THE COSTS OF INACTION: THE URGENT NEED FOR HEALTH REFORM. U.S. Department of Health and Human Reform. March 2009.....	12

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES NEWS.....12

REDUCING INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE U.S.: FOCUS ON HIV/AIDS AND HEPATITIS. Issue brief. Trust for America's Health, May 2009 .....	12
PANDEMIC INFLUENZA. ....	12
NEW METHODS COULD SPEED PRODUCTION OF FLU VACCINES: Clinical trials using new strategies show promise for better protection against flu. <i>HealthDay News</i> , May 18, 2009.....	12
TO CONTROL SWINE FLU, LET'S HEED THE LESSONS OF SARS. Betsy McCaughey. <i>New York Daily News</i> , April 29, 2009.....	12
VACCINE READINESS IN A TIME OF PANDEMIC; POLICY PROMISES REALIZED AND THE CHALLENGES THAT REMAIN. By Scott Gottlieb. <i>Health Policy Outlook</i> , AEI Online, May 8, 2009 .....	13
UPDATE: NOVEL INFLUENZA A (H1N1) VIRUS INFECTIONS – WORLDWIDE, May 6, 2009. U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. May 8, 2009. ....	13
THE 2009 INFLUENZA A (H1N1) OUTBREAK: SELECTED LEGAL ISSUES. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. May 4, 2009. ....	13

PANDEMIC INFLUENZA: A GUIDE TO RECENT INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE STUDIES AND WORKSHOPS. Institute of Medicine of the National Academies. May 4, 2009. ....	13
SWINE FLU (H1N1 VIRUS) SURVEY. Harvard Opinion Research Program, Harvard School of Public Health. Robert J. Blendon et al. Web posted May 1, 2009. ....	14
COMPENDIUM OF MEASURES TO PREVENT DISEASE ASSOCIATED WITH ANIMALS IN PUBLIC SETTING 2009. National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians, Inc. May 1, 2009. ....	14
HEALTH CARE WORKERS IN PERIL: PREPARING TO PROTECT WORKER HEALTH AND SAFETY DURING PANDEMIC INFLUENZA. American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. April 30, 2009.....	14
PANDEMIC INFLUENZA WATCHBOARD. U.S. Department of Defense. April 30, 2009.....	14
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NEW INFLUENZA A (H1N1) VIRUS. American Veterinary Medical Association. April 29, 2009. ....	15
SWINE-ORIGIN INFLUENZA A (H1N1) INFORMATION FOR CHILD CARE PROVIDERS. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. April 29, 2009.....	15
STRATEGY FOR SWINE FLU SHOULD FOCUS ON COMMON SENSE, NOT THE BORDER. Heritage Foundation. Jena Baker McNeill and James Jay. April 28, 2009.....	15
WHAT A FLU PANDEMIC COULD COST THE WORLD. Brookings Institution. Alexandra A. Sidorenko. April 28, 2009. ....	15
SWINE INFLUENZA AND YOU. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. April 26, 2009. ....	15
INFLUENZA (FLU) ANTIVIRAL DRUGS AND RELATED INFORMATION. U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Updated April 27, 2009.....	16
INFLUENZA A(H1N1). World Health Organization. April 26, 2009. ....	16
HIV/AIDS . . . . .	16
EXTREME GENOMICS - THE GENOMES OF 50 HIV-RESISTANT PEOPLE MAY OPEN NEW DOORS TO UNDERSTANDING DISEASE. InSciences.org, 12 May 2009 .....	16
NIH MULTICENTER AIDS COHORT STUDY COMMEMORATES 25 YEARS OF DISCOVERY. NIH News, May 6, 2009 .....	16
TUBERCULOSIS AND OTHER DISEASES . . . . .	17
NEW TB VACCINE CANDIDATE ENTERS PHASE IIB CLINICAL TRIAL IN SOUTH AFRICA. 22 April 2009 .....	17
TRENDS IN TUBERCULOSIS – UNITED STATES, 2008. Centers for Diseases Control and Prevention. March 19, 2009. ....	17
NEW TACTICS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS. Barry, Clifton E. Iii; Cheung, Maija S. <i>Scientific American</i> , February 2009 .....	17
HALF OF POPULATION AT RISK FOR CURABLE, PREVENTABLE MALARIA: World Malaria Day promotes measurement of eradication progress. Cheryl Pellerin, DOS Science Writer. 28 April 2009 .....	17
MAPPING THE SPREAD OF MALARIA DRUG RESISTANCE. PLoS Medicine. T. Anderson. April 14, 2009. ....	18
NEW UNDERSTANDING OF DENGUE VIRUS POINTS WAY TO POSSIBLE THERAPIES FOR DENGUE FEVER. NIH, April 22, 2009.....	18

## **NARCOTICS AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE.....18**

SMOKERS CAN'T BLOW OFF STRESS. Pew Social & Demographic Trends. Wendy Wang and Paul Taylor. April 8, 2009. ....	18
EARTH DAY – TOBACCO CONTROL GUIDE. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. April 2009. ..	19
ASSESSING CHANGES IN GLOBAL DRUG PROBLEMS, 1998-2007. RAND Corporation. April 27, 2009. 19	
THE COSTS OF METHAMPHETAMINE USE: A NATIONAL ESTIMATE. RAND Corporation. April 16, 2009. ....	19

## **CHRONIC DISEASES.....19**

MAPPING THE IMPACT: EXPLORING THE PAYBACK OF ARTHRITIS RESEARCH. Steven Wooding et al. RAND Monograph, May 2009.....	19
RESEARCHERS UNCOVER GENETIC CLUES TO BLOOD PRESSURE. NIH, May 10, 2009 .....	20
2009 ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE FACTS AND FIGURES. Alzheimer's Association. March 2009.....	20
SCIENTISTS IDENTIFY NEW ROLE FOR LUNG EPITHELIAL CELLS IN SENSING ALLERGENS IN THE AIR. NIH NIAID, March 30, 2009 .....	20

## **MISCELLANEOUS.....21**

NATIONWIDE REPORT REVEALS THAT 1 IN 13 ADULTS EXPERIENCED MAJOR DEPRESSIVE EPISODE IN THE PAST YEAR. SAMSHA 5/19/2009 .....	21
STUDY FINDS HIGHER SUICIDE RISK IN TEENS WHO SEE THEMSELVES AS OVERWEIGHT. Rita Jenkins. Daily News Central, 18 May 2009 .....	21
POOR SLEEP LINKED TO HIGHER BMI. Rita Jenkins. Daily News Central, 17 May 2009.....	21
MAKING IT EASIER FOR SCHOOL STAFF TO HELP TRAUMATIZED STUDENTS. Lisa H. Jaycox et al. RAND, May 2009 .....	22
REPORT: CLIMATE CHANGE THREATENS HEALTH: Scientists Say Global Warming Will Increase Malaria and Other Diseases. By Salynn Boyles. WebMD Health News. May 13, 2009 .....	22
REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT AT SIGNING OF STEM CELL EXECUTIVE ORDER AND SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY PRESIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM. THE WHITE HOUSE, Office of the Press Secretary, March 9, 2009.....	22
INCREASED SCRUTINY OF FLEA AND TICK CONTROL PRODUCTS FOR PETS. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. April 18, 2009.....	23
SOLDIERS' STRESS: WHAT DOCTORS GET WRONG ABOUT PTSD. Dobbs, David. <i>Scientific American</i> , April 2009 .....	23
GUIDELINES ON THE PROVISION OF MANUAL WHEELCHAIRS IN LESS RESOURCED SETTINGS 2008. WHO, 21 April 2009.....	23



## **PUBLIC HEALTH, DIET, NUTRITION AND PREVENTION**

### **RECREATIONAL WATER ILLNESS AWARENESS WEEK, MAY 18-24. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**



The week of May 18–24, 2009 marks the fifth annual National Recreational Water Illness Prevention Week. This yearly observance is an opportunity for everyone to learn more about healthy swimming behaviors and other steps to prevent recreational water illnesses (RWIs) and

injuries. RWIs are illnesses spread by swallowing, breathing in the vapors from, or having contact with contaminated water in swimming pools, water parks, spas, interactive fountains, ponds, lakes, rivers, or oceans. Injuries at aquatics facilities can occur in or out of the water. <http://www.cdc.gov/Features/RWIs/>



### **GLOBAL HEALTH, Spring 2009. Global Health Council**

Technology is a tool that lets people help themselves, be it finding today's prices for their fish or crops, reminding them to take their medicine, or surveying the epicenter of the latest outbreak of disease. Never before in history has so much information been available to so many people in the most remote corners of the globe. To think that this revolution is merely in its infancy is astounding. But with it comes challenges to do it right, be flexible enough for change, and to harness the technology to do what we need it to do, and not what it dictates to us. These are the challenges, but the opportunities are boundless.

[http://www.globalhealthmagazine.com/in\\_this\\_issue/](http://www.globalhealthmagazine.com/in_this_issue/)

### **DRUG EDUCATION ALSO HELPS CURB RISKY SEXUAL BEHAVIOR. RAND, April 29, 2009**

School-based drug education programs for adolescents can have a long-term positive impact on sexual behavior in addition to curbing substance abuse, according to a new RAND Corporation study.

Researchers found that young adults who had been exposed to a popular drug abuse prevention program as adolescents were less likely to engage in risky sexual behavior five to seven years later, according to the findings published online by the Journal of Adolescent Health. The study provides the strongest evidence to date that drug abuse prevention programs can also curb risky sexual practices in young adulthood.

"The lessons these young people learned about how to avoid drug and alcohol abuse appears to have had a positive impact on their sexual behavior as well," said Phyllis Ellickson, the lead author of the study and a researcher at RAND, a nonprofit research organization. The study found that youth exposed to a drug abuse education program were significantly less likely as young adults to either engage in sex with multiple partners or to have unprotected sex because of drug and alcohol use than their peers who had not received the training.

<http://www.rand.org/news/press/2009/04/29/>

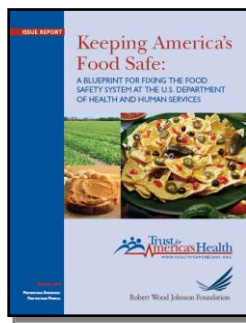
## **PRESIDENT OBAMA'S ADDRESS: REVERSING A TROUBLING TREND IN FOOD SAFETY, March 14, 2009**

The safety of our nation's food supply is a concern for families throughout the country, as well as American agriculture, business, industry, and the public sector.

On March 14, 2009, President Barack Obama announced the creation of the Food Safety Working Group, chaired by the Secretaries of the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Agriculture.

As the President said in his address, the working group "will bring together cabinet secretaries and senior officials to advise me on how we can upgrade our food safety laws for the 21st century; foster coordination throughout government; and ensure that we are not just designing laws that will keep the American people safe, but enforcing them."

[http://www.whitehouse.gov/the\\_press\\_office/Weekly-Address-President-Barack-Obama-Announces-Key-FDA-Appointments-and-Tougher-F/](http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Weekly-Address-President-Barack-Obama-Announces-Key-FDA-Appointments-and-Tougher-F/)



## **KEEPING AMERICA'S FOOD SAFE: A BLUEPRINT FOR FIXING THE FOOD SAFETY SYSTEM AT THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES. Trust for America's Health (TFAH) and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) March 2009**

The report calls for the immediate consolidation of food safety leadership within the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and ultimately the creation of a separate Food Safety Administration within HHS. Currently, no FDA official whose full-time job is food safety has line authority over all food safety functions. A speedy effort by the

Obama administration to consolidate leadership within FDA, followed by Congressional action to create a separate Food Safety Administration, would both ensure immediate progress on food safety and create a platform for long-term success in reducing foodborne illness. President Barack Obama recently called for restructuring and improving the U.S. food safety system. This report helps provide a road map for the first steps toward revamping the system.

<http://healthyamericans.org/assets/files/2009FoodSafetyReport.pdf>

## **CANCER AND THE GOVERNMENT. Michael D. Tanner.Cato.org, May 11, 2009.**

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network announced recently that it will spend \$3 million over the next several months not on urging Americans to stop smoking or get mammograms, but on campaigning for a government takeover of the U.S. health-care system. This is perverse: It's hard to imagine anything worse for cancer patients than government-run health care.

For all its faults and all the criticism that it has received, the United States' free-market health-care system has made America the place you want to be if you have a serious illness.

[http://www.cato.org/pub\\_display.php?pub\\_id=10190](http://www.cato.org/pub_display.php?pub_id=10190)

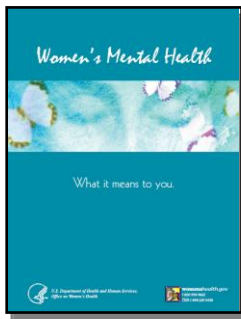


**ACTION STEPS FOR IMPROVING WOMEN'S MENTAL HEALTH. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office on Women's Health, May 2009**

A report that brings together the most recent research, resources, products, and tools on mental health issues in women and explores the role gender plays in diagnosing, treating, and coping with mental illness. It also points to resilience and social support systems as key factors in overcoming mental illness and is calling for action to address the inadequacies found in treating women's mental health issues. According

to the report from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office on Women's Health, women are nearly twice as likely as men to suffer from major depression, three times more likely to attempt suicide, and two to three times more likely to experience anxiety disorders than men. Among the actions recommended by report's authors are the need to improve how primary care doctors and mental health professionals communicate about their patients' mental health needs, to underscore the essential importance of women's mental health to overall well-being, and to recognize the role of trauma and violence against women and its impact on mental illness.

<http://mentalhealth.samhsa.gov/publications/allpubs/OWH09-PROFESSIONAL/actionsteps.aspx>



**WOMEN'S MENTAL HEALTH: WHAT IT MEANS TO YOU. (OWH09-CONSUMER) U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office on Women's Health**

A consumer booklet that addresses the stigma associated with mental health, with information on the signs and symptoms of mental illness. It also provides suggestions for support and solutions for preventing and coping with mental illness.

<http://download.ncadi.samhsa.gov/ken/pdf/OWH09-CONSUMER/womenmentalhealth.pdf>

**MULTIVITAMINS MIGHT PROLONG LIFE: BY PRESERVING PROTECTIVE ENDS OF DNA, AGING MIGHT BE SLOWED, STUDY SUGGESTS. By Steven Reinberg, HealthDay Reporter**

MONDAY, May 18 (HealthDay News) -- Multivitamins may help women live longer by preventing parts of their DNA from shortening, a new study has found.

Telomeres, or the end portion of chromosomes, protect chromosomes from damage. Because telomeres shorten slightly when cells divide, researchers speculated that preventing this shortening could protect new cells and thus reduce the effects of aging.

"This study provides the first epidemiological evidence that multivitamin use is associated with longer leukocyte telomeres among women," said lead researcher Dr. Honglei Chen, head of the Aging & Neuroepidemiology Group at the U.S. National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. "It is not yet clear if this association is causal." The report appears in the June issue of the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition.

<http://www.healthfinder.gov/News/printnewsstory.aspx?docID=627151>



## **DO ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS HELP OR HINDER MEDICAL EDUCATION? PLoS Medicine. Jonathan U. Peled et al. May 12, 2009.**

Many countries worldwide are digitizing patients' medical records. In the United States, the recent economic stimulus package ("the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009"), signed into law by President Obama, includes \$US17 billion in incentives for health providers to switch to electronic health records (EHRs). The package also includes \$US2 billion for the development of EHR standards and best-practice guidelines. What impact will the rise of EHRs have upon medical education? The debate examines both the threats and opportunities.

<http://www.plosmedicine.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pmed.1000069>

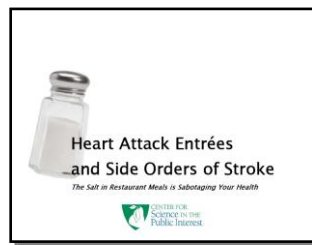
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## **THE PREVENTABLE CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE UNITED STATES: COMPARATIVE RISK ASSESSMENT OF DIETARY, LIFESTYLE, AND METABOLIC RISK FACTORS. PLoS Medicine. Goodarz Danaei et al. April 28, 2009.**

Smoking and high blood pressure, which both have effective interventions, are responsible for the largest number of deaths in the US. Other dietary, lifestyle, and metabolic risk factors for chronic diseases also cause a substantial number of deaths in the US.

<http://www.plosmedicine.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pmed.1000058>

[HTML format, various paging].



## **HEART ATTACK ENTREES AND SIDE ORDERS OF STROKE: THE SALT IN RESTAURANT MEALS IS SABOTAGING YOUR HEALTH. Center for Science in the Public Interest. May 11, 2009.**

Unsafe levels of sodium chloride, or salt, in chain restaurant meals increase one's chance of developing hypertension, heart attacks, strokes, and kidney disease according to the report. The report

exposes chain restaurant meals with dangerously high levels of sodium and is renewing its call on industry and government to lower sodium levels in foods. CSPI researchers examined 17 chains and found that 85 out of 102 meals had more than a day's worth of sodium, and some had more than four days' worth.

<http://cspinet.org/new/pdf/cspirestaurantsaltreport.pdf> [PDF format, 44 pages].



## **WOMEN AT RISK: WHY MANY WOMEN ARE FORGOING NEEDED HEALTH CARE. Commonwealth Fund. Sheila D. Rustgi et al. May 11, 2009.**

Women are more likely than men to feel the pinch of rising health costs and eroding health benefits, with about half (52%) of working-age women reporting problems accessing needed care because of costs, compared to 39 percent of men, the study finds. Women who are insured but have inadequate coverage are especially vulnerable: 69 percent of underinsured women have problems accessing care because

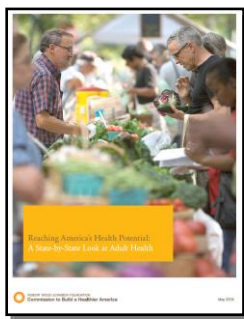
of costs, compared to half (49%) of underinsured men.

[http://www.commonwealthfund.org/~media/Files/Publications/Issue%20Brief/2009/May/Women%20at%20Risk/PDF\\_1262\\_Rustgi\\_women\\_at\\_risk\\_issue\\_brief\\_Final.pdf](http://www.commonwealthfund.org/~media/Files/Publications/Issue%20Brief/2009/May/Women%20at%20Risk/PDF_1262_Rustgi_women_at_risk_issue_brief_Final.pdf)

[PDF format, 12 pages].

**“CONTACT YOUR DOCTOR”: BAD ADVICE? Urban Institute. Robert A. Berenson. May 8, 2009.**

Immediate concerns over swine flu might be waning, but public health and government officials continue their fight against the illness, directing people with flu symptoms to see their doctor. But advice like this takes for granted a well-functioning health care system. Many Americans don't have a doctor to contact, either because they don't have health insurance or because primary-care physicians are in seriously short supply.  
<http://www.urban.org/publications/901250.html> [HTML format, various paging].



**REACHING AMERICA'S HEALTH POTENTIAL: A STATE-BY-STATE LOOK AT ADULT HEALTH. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. May 6, 2009.**

Across the country and in every state, adults with less education are more likely to be in less than very good health than college graduates, and adults in every state fall far short of the level of good health that should be achievable for all Americans, says the report. It ranks states on differences in adults' health based on their levels of education, and it shows that while people with more education are healthier, in some states these differences are much more dramatic than in others.

<http://www.rwjf.org/files/research/commission2009adulthealth.pdf>  
 [PDF format, 24 pages].

**HARD TIMES IN THE HEARTLAND. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. May 4, 2009.**



The study outlines the health care challenges facing rural communities. The report was developed by HHS staff from across the department and comes on the same day Director of the White House Office of Health Reform Nancy-Ann DeParle, HRSA Administrator Mary Wakefield, and Representative Mike Ross will hold a meeting with Americans from rural communities as part of the ongoing series of White House Health Care Stakeholder Discussions.

<http://healthreform.gov/reports/hardtimes/ruralreport.pdf>

**POLICIES AND PRACTICES TO ADVANCE GLOBAL HEALTH TECHNOLOGIES. Christopher J. Elias. CSIS Global Health Policy Center, April 20, 2009**



Innovation in global health technologies has been a hallmark of the past century. Often advanced through U.S. leadership, these new technologies have contributed to enormous progress in the battle against some of the world's greatest public health challenges. Significant barriers remain, however, and the world lacks many important tools to address existing and emerging health threats. Continued support for the development and delivery of global health technologies is critical to ensuring better health for all.

[http://www.csis.org/component/option,com\\_csis\\_pubs/task/view/id,5426/](http://www.csis.org/component/option,com_csis_pubs/task/view/id,5426/)



**THE PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL OF CHINA'S PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY. By Roger Bate, Karen Porter. AEI Health Policy Outlook, April 2009. AEI Online**

China's pharmaceutical market has experienced significant growth in recent years, fueled by increasing wealth among its own population as well as accelerating global demand for cheap, effective medicines to treat ailments ranging from high cholesterol to HIV/AIDS. Along with India, China supplies more than 40 percent of the active pharmaceutical ingredients (API) used to make U.S. pharmaceuticals. The current financial crisis, and the limited resources and tighter budgets it has engendered, may accelerate

the trend. Yet, China is dogged by a history of poor-quality pharmaceuticals that have killed hundreds and sickened thousands of its own citizens and people across the globe. The government has begun to tighten its laws, but enforcement remains weak, and official obfuscation is rampant. While any retaliatory protectionist measures in the United States would be counterproductive, China and its international partners would gain from improving the frequency and technical sophistication of inspections, the prosecution of perpetrators, and the culture of self-policing within China's pharmaceutical industry.

<http://www.aei.org/outlook/100029>

**INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AND HEALTH. United Nations World Health Organization. Web posted April 17, 2009.**

The International Travel and Health report provides guidance to medical and non-medical people on potential health risks for travelers and precautions to take. The new 2009 edition includes a chapter on psychological health, detailed maps of major infectious diseases and updated vaccine recommendations and schedules.

[http://www.who.int/ith/ITH\\_2009.pdf](http://www.who.int/ith/ITH_2009.pdf) [PDF format, 252 pages].

**PRELIMINARY FOOD NET DATA ON THE INCIDENCE OF INFECTION WITH PATHOGENS TRANSMITTED COMMONLY THROUGH FOOD – 10 STATES, 2008. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. April 10, 2009.**

Despite numerous activities aimed at preventing food borne human infections, including the initiation of new control measures after the identification of new vehicles of transmission e.g., peanut butter-containing products, progress toward the national health objectives has staggered, suggesting that fundamental problems with bacterial and parasitic contamination are not being resolved. The large multistate outbreaks point to gaps in the current food safety system and the need to continue to develop and evaluate food safety practices as food moves from the farm to the table.

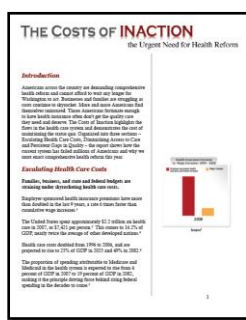
[http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5813a2.htm?s\\_cid=mm5813a2\\_x](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5813a2.htm?s_cid=mm5813a2_x)



**FINANCIAL AND HEALTH BURDENS OF CHRONIC CONDITIONS GROW. Center for Studying Health System Change. Ha T. Tu and Genna R. Cohen. April 2009.**

Almost 72 million working-age Americans, 18-64 years old, live with chronic conditions, such as diabetes, asthma or depression. For the more than 20 million chronically ill adults with medical bill problems in 2007, one in four went without needed medical care, half put off care and more than half went without a prescription medication because of cost concerns.

<http://www.hschange.org/CONTENT/1049/1049.pdf>



## **THE COSTS OF INACTION: THE URGENT NEED FOR HEALTH REFORM. U.S. Department of Health and Human Reform. March 2009.**

Americans across the country are demanding comprehensive health reform and cannot afford to wait any longer, according to the study. More and more Americans find themselves uninsured. Those Americans fortunate enough to have health insurance often don't get the quality care they need and deserve. The study highlights the flaws in the health care system and demonstrates the cost of maintaining the status quo.

<http://www.healthreform.gov/reports/inaction/inactionreportprintmarch2009.pdf>

## **INFECTIOUS DISEASES NEWS**



## **REDUCING INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE U.S.: FOCUS ON HIV/AIDS AND HEPATITIS. Issue brief. Trust for America's Health, May 2009**

The worldwide hepatitis and HIV/AIDS epidemics are overwhelming. Globally, 200 million people -- more than three percent of the world's population -- are infected with hepatitis C, and nearly 33 million people are reported to be living with HIV. The global situation often overshadows the need to also address these diseases domestically.

One of the most effective, scientifically-based methods for reducing these diseases -- needle exchange programs -- has become embroiled in politics, based on some long-held misperceptions, creating a serious challenge for the medical community and policymakers. This paper examines the scientific basis for removing existing federal restrictions on needle exchange programs.

<http://healthyamericans.org/assets/files/InfectiousDisease050709.pdf>

## **PANDEMIC INFLUENZA**

### **NEW METHODS COULD SPEED PRODUCTION OF FLU VACCINES: Clinical trials using new strategies show promise for better protection against flu. *HealthDay News*, May 18, 2009**

Vaccines made up of virus-like particles (VLPs) could provide stronger and longer-lasting protection against flu viruses than conventional vaccines, researchers say. Even better, VLP vaccines, which can be grown in cell cultures or plants, can be developed and produced twice as quickly as conventional vaccines, according to research presented May 18 at the 109th General Meeting of the American Society for Microbiology, in Philadelphia. More:

<http://www.healthfinder.gov/News/printnewsstory.aspx?docID=627173>

### **TO CONTROL SWINE FLU, LET'S HEED THE LESSONS OF SARS. Betsy McCaughey. *New York Daily News*, April 29, 2009**

As cases of swine flu continue to mount, the World Health Organization announced yesterday that a pandemic is "imminent." There are now 91 confirmed cases of swine flu in the United States; one child has died from the illness.

Our safety will clearly depend on what hospitals do when seriously ill victims seek treatment.



That is the lesson of SARS - four letters that filled the headlines in the spring of 2003, and then disappeared. A report issued after the fact by the government of Ontario shows how a hospital in one city thwarted an epidemic while hospitals in another city made deadly mistakes that allowed the disease to spread.

[http://www.hudson.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=publication\\_details&id=6213&pubType=Health](http://www.hudson.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=publication_details&id=6213&pubType=Health)



**VACCINE READINESS IN A TIME OF PANDEMIC; POLICY PROMISES REALIZED AND THE CHALLENGES THAT REMAIN. By Scott Gottlieb. *Health Policy Outlook*, AEI Online, May 8, 2009**

The recent outbreak of swine flu, originating in Mexico but now identified in hundreds of cases worldwide--and probably a factor in thousands of other milder illnesses--has brought flu vaccination to the center of public discussion. The outdated egg-based method for making flu vaccines takes too long to make enough vaccines both to prevent

seasonal flu and to inoculate large populations rapidly to a newly emerging pandemic strain.

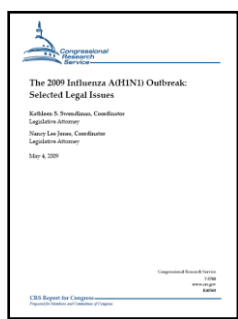
The vaccine industry has been pioneering new approaches to manufacturing vaccines, such as cell cultures, as well as new techniques to stretch supplies and make existing vaccines more effective.

<http://www.aei.org/outlook/100033>

**UPDATE: NOVEL INFLUENZA A (H1N1) VIRUS INFECTIONS – WORLDWIDE, May 6, 2009. U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. May 8, 2009.**

Since mid-April 2009, CDC, state and local health authorities in the United States, the World Health Organization (WHO), and health ministries in several countries have been responding to an outbreak of influenza caused by a novel influenza A (H1N1) virus. Since recognition of the novel influenza A (H1N1) virus in Mexico and the United States, as of May 6, a total of 21 additional countries had reported cases, with a total of 1,882 confirmed cases worldwide. .

[http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5817a1.htm?s\\_cid=mm5817a1\\_x](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5817a1.htm?s_cid=mm5817a1_x)



**THE 2009 INFLUENZA A (H1N1) OUTBREAK: SELECTED LEGAL ISSUES. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. May 4, 2009.**

Recent human cases of infection with a novel influenza A (H1N1) virus have been identified both internationally and in the United States. Since there has been human to human transmission and the new virus has the potential to become pandemic, it is timely to examine the legal issues surrounding this emerging public health threat. The report provides a brief overview of selected legal issues including emergency measures,

civil rights, liability issues, and employment issues.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R40560.pdf>

**PANDEMIC INFLUENZA: A GUIDE TO RECENT INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE STUDIES AND WORKSHOPS. Institute of Medicine of the National Academies. May 4, 2009.**

In the past several years, the Institute of Medicine has gathered experts to consider major policy issues related to pandemic influenza and other infectious





disease threats. The products of these activities include reports and workshop summaries that discuss many dimensions of pandemic planning and response. The overview highlights action and information that could be useful for near-term implementation.

[http://www.iom.edu/Object.File/Master/66/249/Pandemic\\_influenza\\_brief1.pdf](http://www.iom.edu/Object.File/Master/66/249/Pandemic_influenza_brief1.pdf)

**SWINE FLU (H1N1 VIRUS) SURVEY. Harvard Opinion Research Program, Harvard School of Public Health. Robert J. Blendon et al. Web posted May 1, 2009.**

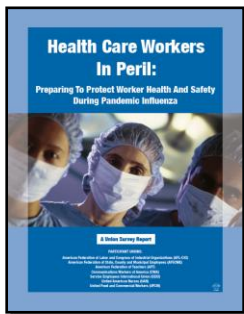
Following the declaration of a public health emergency due to the new H1N1 virus, also known as swine flu, the Harvard Opinion Research Program at the Harvard School of Public Health conducted a poll about how concerned Americans are about the outbreak, how they are responding and what they believe about transmission, prevention and treatment.

[http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/news/press-releases/files/Swine\\_Flu.TOPLINE.pdf](http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/news/press-releases/files/Swine_Flu.TOPLINE.pdf)

**COMPENDIUM OF MEASURES TO PREVENT DISEASE ASSOCIATED WITH ANIMALS IN PUBLIC SETTING 2009. National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians, Inc. May 1, 2009.**

Certain venues encourage or permit the public to be in contact with animals, resulting in millions of human-animal interactions each year. These settings include county or state fairs, petting zoos, animal swap meets, pet stores, zoologic institutions, circuses, carnivals, educational farms, livestock-birthing exhibits, educational exhibits at schools and child-care facilities, and wildlife photo opportunities. Although human-animal contact has many benefits, many human health problems are associated with these settings, including infectious diseases, exposure to rabies, and injuries. Such infections have substantial medical, public health, legal, and economic effects.

[http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5805a1.htm?s\\_cid=rr5805a1\\_x](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5805a1.htm?s_cid=rr5805a1_x)



**HEALTH CARE WORKERS IN PERIL: PREPARING TO PROTECT WORKER HEALTH AND SAFETY DURING PANDEMIC INFLUENZA. American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. April 30, 2009.**

A union survey of more than 100 health care facilities across the country reveals that many are not adequately prepared to protect workers' health and safety during an influenza pandemic. The report concludes that workers face a very high risk of becoming infected when caring for patients with pandemic flu unless adequate health and safety measures

are in place in advance of a pandemic.

[http://www.afscme.org/docs/Health\\_Care\\_Workers\\_In\\_Peril.pdf](http://www.afscme.org/docs/Health_Care_Workers_In_Peril.pdf)

**PANDEMIC INFLUENZA WATCHBOARD. U.S. Department of Defense. April 30, 2009.**

The U.S. Department of Defense provides the information on swine flu in order “to preserve the U.S. combat capabilities and readiness and to support U.S. government efforts to save lives, reduce human suffering and slow the spread of infection.”

<http://fhq.osd.mil/aiWatchboard/> [HTML format with links].

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NEW INFLUENZA A (H1N1) VIRUS. American Veterinary Medical Association. April 29, 2009.**

The recent outbreak of a new strain of H1N1 influenza among people in North America has heightened awareness of this type of influenza commonly called "swine flu," and has raised fears of an influenza A (H1N1) epidemic or even a pandemic. These questions and answers are based on what is currently known about the virus, and will be updated  
[http://www.avma.org/public\\_health/influenza/new\\_virus/new\\_flu\\_virus\\_faq.asp](http://www.avma.org/public_health/influenza/new_virus/new_flu_virus_faq.asp)

**SWINE-ORIGIN INFLUENZA A (H1N1) INFORMATION FOR CHILD CARE PROVIDERS. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. April 29, 2009.**

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides information geared toward child care providers and parents in taking preventive steps against swine flu. The site also provides links to other resources, including disaster planning. It also provides swine flu news and information related to the military personnel.  
<http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/childcare.htm> [HTML format, various paging].

**STRATEGY FOR SWINE FLU SHOULD FOCUS ON COMMON SENSE, NOT THE BORDER. Heritage Foundation. Jena Baker McNeill and James Jay. April 28, 2009.**

The spread of this flu and the associated deaths in Mexico have left Americans frightened and concerned. While these concerns have led to calls to contain the outbreak by closing the border with Mexico or instituting travel restrictions, a border-centric strategy is not an effective solution for dealing with the swine flu. Instead, local health departments should focus on educating Americans about common-sense precautions individuals can take to lessen the likelihood they will be infected. Both Congress and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) should reinforce these prudent measures rather than exacerbating fears and advocating less effective measures.  
<http://www.heritage.org/Research/HomelandSecurity/wm2415.cfm>

**WHAT A FLU PANDEMIC COULD COST THE WORLD. Brookings Institution. Alexandra A. Sidorenko. April 28, 2009.**

Comparing the recent outbreak of swine flu to the influenza epidemic of 1918-19 may seem premature. While today's modern world is much better prepared to deal with a public health emergency, in one respect, it is in fact more vulnerable to contagion. The integrated nature of the global economy means that international finance offers little resistance to the economic shocks that accompany pandemics. Even with a relatively small number of cases and deaths, the global cost of a modern epidemic is large and not limited to the countries directly affected, according to the report.  
[http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2009/0428\\_swine\\_flu\\_mckibbin.aspx](http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2009/0428_swine_flu_mckibbin.aspx)  
[HTML format, various paging].

**SWINE INFLUENZA AND YOU. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. April 26, 2009.**

The page provides questions and answers on swine influenza.  
[http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/swineflu\\_you.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/swineflu_you.htm) [HTML format, various paging].

**INFLUENZA (FLU) ANTIVIRAL DRUGS AND RELATED INFORMATION. U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Updated April 27, 2009.**

The web site contains links to several sources of general information about influenza. Because vaccination is the primary means of preventing and controlling influenza, links related to influenza vaccine are listed first, followed by links related to antiviral drugs that have been approved in the United States for influenza. After the vaccine and antiviral drug links, there is a list of web sites that provide additional influenza information from United States government agencies and the World Health Organization, and a list of contacts for further inquiries.

<http://www.fda.gov/cder/drug/antivirals/influenza/default.htm>

**INFLUENZA A(H1N1). World Health Organization. April 26, 2009.**

The World Health Organization provides daily situation updates and answers to frequently asked questions about swine influenza.

<http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/en/>

## HIV/AIDS

**EXTREME GENOMICS - THE GENOMES OF 50 HIV-RESISTANT PEOPLE MAY OPEN NEW DOORS TO UNDERSTANDING DISEASE. InSciences.org, 12 May 2009**

Durham, NC -- In the 1970s and 1980s, before safety measures were in place to screen out tainted blood, people with hemophilia were routinely exposed to HIV-infected blood products. Most of those patients became infected and later died of AIDS, but a significant minority – some 20 percent of those who were almost certainly exposed to the virus repeatedly – did not.

Now, David Goldstein, director of the IGSP's Center for Human Genome Variation, and his colleagues think that the complete genome sequences of those fortunate few will be key in the search for rare genetic variants that offer significant protection from HIV. Indeed, such host resistance to HIV is uncommon, existing in only a small percentage of the general population. It has been traced, in part, to the presence of genetic variants linked to the ability to block infection.

[http://insciences.org/article.php?article\\_id=4957](http://insciences.org/article.php?article_id=4957)

**NIH MULTICENTER AIDS COHORT STUDY COMMEMORATES 25 YEARS OF DISCOVERY. NIH News, May 6, 2009**

The longest U.S. study of people with HIV/AIDS will be honored at a 25th anniversary commemoration on May 12, 2009, at the Carnegie Institution for Science in Washington, D.C. The *Multicenter AIDS Cohort Study* (MACS) has significantly contributed to the scientific understanding of HIV, AIDS and the effects of antiretroviral therapy through more than 1,000 publications, many of which have guided public health policy and the clinical care of people with HIV. MACS investigators prospectively study the natural and treated history of HIV infection in thousands of homosexual and bisexual men at sites in Baltimore, Chicago, Pittsburgh and Los Angeles.

An extraordinary characteristic of the MACS is its 25 years of behavioral and biological data and specimens from men who have sex with men, before and after they became infected with HIV, before and after they were diagnosed with AIDS, and before and after they began highly active antiretroviral therapy—along with data from a control group of same-aged,

HIV-free men who have sex with men. Comparing these before-and-after specimens and data from HIV-infected and uninfected individuals has yielded numerous seminal discoveries, **MACS:** <http://www.statepi.jhsph.edu/mac/mac.html>

## TUBERCULOSIS AND OTHER DISEASES

### **NEW TB VACCINE CANDIDATE ENTERS PHASE IIB CLINICAL TRIAL IN SOUTH AFRICA. 22 April 2009**

Oxford, UK, Rockville, MD (USA), Cape Town, South Africa - A Phase Iib clinical trial will test some 2800 South African children under the age of one year for the safety and immunogenicity of a promising new TB vaccine developed at the University of Oxford. Researchers will also seek to obtain preliminary efficacy data for the vaccine. This is the first proof-of-concept trial of a new preventive TB vaccine in infants in more than 80 years. The Aeras Global TB Vaccine Foundation, the Oxford-Emergent Tuberculosis Consortium Ltd, Isis Innovation Ltd., the Wellcome Trust and the University of Cape Town are collaborating on the project. The study will be conducted by the South African Tuberculosis Vaccine Initiative (SATVI) of the University of Cape Town in the Western Cape Region. <http://www.aeras.org/newscenter/news-detail.php?id=908>

### **TRENDS IN TUBERCULOSIS – UNITED STATES, 2008. Centers for Diseases Control and Prevention. March 19, 2009.**

In 2008, the number of TB cases and annual TB rate reached all-time lows in the United States. After the resurgence of TB during 1985–1992, the annual TB rate has steadily decreased. However, since 2000, the pace of that decline has slowed. To hasten the decline of TB in the United States, intensified efforts are required to address the disproportionately high rates of TB that persist among foreign-born persons and racial/ethnic minorities. [http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5810a2.htm?s\\_cid=mm5810a2\\_x](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5810a2.htm?s_cid=mm5810a2_x) [HTML format, various paging].

### **NEW TACTICS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS. Barry, Clifton E. Iii; Cheung, Maija S. *Scientific American*, February 2009**

Summary: The pandemic is growing in many places and strains resistant to all existing drugs are emerging. To fight back, biologists are applying a host of cutting-edge drug development strategies. Tuberculosis is second only to HIV as the worldwide cause of death from infection. TB is caused by a bacterium. Most cases are treatable but strains resistant to first- and second-line drugs are on the rise. Conventional approaches to developing new antibiotics and vaccines against the disease have mostly failed. New tools are enabling scientists to study the TB-causing bacterium in greater detail, offering unprecedented insight into the interactions between pathogen and host. The results are exposing promising new targets for drug therapy.

<http://www.sciam.com/article.cfm?id=new-tactics-in-fight>

### **HALF OF POPULATION AT RISK FOR CURABLE, PREVENTABLE MALARIA: World Malaria Day promotes measurement of eradication progress. Cheryl Pellerin, DOS Science Writer. 28 April 2009**

Washington — Malaria infects more than 500 million people a year and kills more than 1 million — mostly infants, young children and pregnant women in Africa. Fighting the disease

takes the determined work of many around the world, all of whom were recognized on April 25, World Malaria Day.



The *Anopheles funestus* mosquito (above) and the *Anopheles gambiae* mosquito are the most important malaria vectors in Africa.B

The annual commemoration — instituted by the World Health Organization's World Health Assembly in 2007 — is an opportunity for countries in affected regions to learn from each other's experiences. New donors were encouraged to join the global partnership against malaria,

as researchers and academic institutions highlighted their successes in combating the disease.

[http://www.america.gov/st/scitech-](http://www.america.gov/st/scitech-english/2009/April/20090428153344lcniirellep0.439541.html?CP.rss=true)

[english/2009/April/20090428153344lcniirellep0.439541.html?CP.rss=true](http://www.america.gov/st/scitech-english/2009/April/20090428153344lcniirellep0.439541.html?CP.rss=true)

### **MAPPING THE SPREAD OF MALARIA DRUG RESISTANCE. PLoS Medicine. T. Anderson. April 14, 2009.**

Drug resistance is a recurrent theme in the history of infectious disease control. In the case of malaria, resistance to all but one of the five major classes of drugs is widespread. Such resistance occurs because of the strong selection pressure associated with giving patients anti-malarial drugs. The author argues that the most effective way to stall resistance would therefore be to eliminate selection by halting drug treatment, but this is rarely a feasible option. Hence alternative approaches to managing resistance are needed.

<http://www.plosmedicine.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pmed.1000054>

### **NEW UNDERSTANDING OF DENGUE VIRUS POINTS WAY TO POSSIBLE THERAPIES FOR DENGUE FEVER. NIH, April 22, 2009**

Doctors have no specific drugs to treat dengue fever, a viral illness spread by mosquitoes that sickens 50 million to 100 million people worldwide each year. Instead, the only treatments they can recommend for this painful and sometimes fatal illness (20,000 deaths globally each year) are fluids, rest and non-aspirin pain and fever reducers.

Now, researchers have identified cellular components in mosquitoes and in humans that dengue virus uses to multiply inside these hosts after infecting them. Their findings could lead to the development of anti-dengue drugs that would inhibit one or more of these host factors, thus curtailing infection and the development of disease.

[http://www3.niaid.nih.gov/news/newsreleases/2009/dengue\\_virus.htm](http://www3.niaid.nih.gov/news/newsreleases/2009/dengue_virus.htm)

## **NARCOTICS AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

### **SMOKERS CAN'T BLOW OFF STRESS. Pew Social & Demographic Trends. Wendy Wang and Paul Taylor. April 8, 2009.**

Ask cigarette smokers why they light up and one answer you're likely to hear is that it relieves stress. But if that's the goal, it's not at all clear that cigarettes deliver the goods. Half (50%) of all smokers say they "frequently" experience stress in their daily lives, compared with just 35% of those who once smoked and have now quit and 31% of those who never smoked, according to the survey.

<http://pewsocialtrends.org/pubs/732/smoking-stress-quitting>



### **EARTH DAY – TOBACCO CONTROL GUIDE. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. April 2009.**

The guide is provided to include cigarette litter and pollution control in Earth Day activities as part of a comprehensive tobacco prevention and control program to increase awareness of the detrimental effects of tobacco use to people and the environment and to consequently reduce tobacco use.

[http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/media\\_communications/calendar/2009/april\\_earthday.htm#outline](http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/media_communications/calendar/2009/april_earthday.htm#outline)

### **ASSESSING CHANGES IN GLOBAL DRUG PROBLEMS, 1998-2007. RAND Corporation. April 27, 2009.**

The study provides key findings from the assessment on how the global market for illicit drugs has developed from 1998 to 2007 and describes worldwide drug policies implemented during that period to address the problem. It assesses the impact of policy measures, both at the national and sub-national levels, on the illicit drugs problem. The evidence suggests that illicit drugs presented as much of a problem in 2007 as in 1998.

[http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical\\_reports/2009/RAND\\_TR704.pdf](http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical_reports/2009/RAND_TR704.pdf)

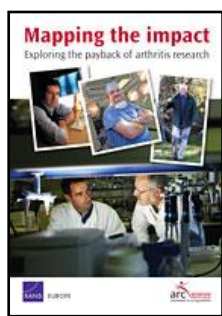
[PDF format, 84 pages].

### **THE COSTS OF METHAMPHETAMINE USE: A NATIONAL ESTIMATE. RAND Corporation. April 16, 2009.**

The economic cost of methamphetamine use reached more than an estimated \$23.4 billion in 2005 — the true economic burden is somewhere between \$16.2 billion and \$48.3 billion. Most of the expense results from the intangible burden that addiction places on dependent users and their premature mortality and from crime and criminal justice costs. Although the cost estimates focus attention on the primary cost drivers, more work is needed to identify areas in which interventions to reduce meth-use harms could prove most cost-effective.

[http://www.rand.org/pubs/research\\_briefs/2009/RAND\\_RB9438.pdf](http://www.rand.org/pubs/research_briefs/2009/RAND_RB9438.pdf)

## **CHRONIC DISEASES**



### **MAPPING THE IMPACT: EXPLORING THE PAYBACK OF ARTHRITIS RESEARCH. Steven Wooding et al. RAND Monograph, May 2009**

The decision of the Arthritis Research campaign (arc) to map its entire research portfolio and analyze the returns and outcomes associated with individual investments was ground-breaking. Nothing similar had been attempted by other major funding organisations and there was no freely available tool for the task, this report describes the tool that was developed to carry out this task, the RAND/ARC Impact Scoring System

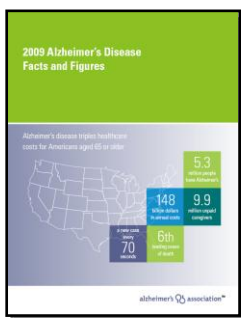
(RAISS). The mapping tool had to be capable of producing data that would stand up to sophisticated analysis while imposing minimal time and cost burdens on administrators, researchers and data processors. The final tool took the form of a simple, tick-box-based Web questionnaire that took most researchers less than an hour to complete. The impact map generated by the tool enables arc to see the returns from individual grants and compare different types of grant.

<http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/MG862/>

## **RESEARCHERS UNCOVER GENETIC CLUES TO BLOOD PRESSURE. NIH, May 10, 2009**

An international research team has identified a number of unsuspected genetic variants associated with systolic blood pressure (SBP), diastolic blood pressure (DBP), and hypertension (high blood pressure), suggesting potential avenues of investigation for the prevention or treatment of hypertension. The research was funded in part by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) of the National Institutes of Health and by several other NIH institutes and centers. The analysis of over 29,000 participants is being presented at the American Society of Hypertension, Inc. scientific meeting on May 8, 2009, and is published online in the journal *Nature Genetics* on May 10, 2009. "This study provides important new insights into the biology of blood pressure regulation and, with continued research, may lead to the development of novel therapeutic approaches to combat hypertension and its complications," said NHLBI Director Elizabeth G. Nabel, M.D.

<http://www.nih.gov/news/health/may2009/nhlbi-10.htm>



## **2009 ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE FACTS AND FIGURES. Alzheimer's Association. March 2009.**

Total healthcare costs are more than three times higher for people with Alzheimer's and other dementias than for other people age 65 and older, according to the study. Total healthcare costs are calculated as per person payments measured from all sources. Medicare payments alone are almost three times higher for people with Alzheimer's and dementia than for others age 65 and over; Medicaid payments alone are more than nine times higher.

[http://www.alz.org/national/documents/report\\_alzfactsfigures2009.pdf](http://www.alz.org/national/documents/report_alzfactsfigures2009.pdf)

## **SCIENTISTS IDENTIFY NEW ROLE FOR LUNG EPITHELIAL CELLS IN SENSING ALLERGENS IN THE AIR. NIH NIAID, March 30, 2009**

Researchers at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of the National Institutes of Health, and at Ghent University in Ghent, Belgium, have identified a new role for certain lung cells in the immune response to airborne allergens. Many foreign substances, called antigens, are inhaled daily, but the lungs have mechanisms that usually prevent people from making unwanted immune responses to these materials. Sometimes, however, immune responses are generated to these substances, resulting in allergic responses and asthma. Scientists have been working to understand what triggers these undesirable airway responses.

In this new study, conducted in mice, scientists discovered that special sensors called Toll-like receptors (TLRs), which dot the surface of epithelial cells that line the lungs, detect the presence of antigens and produce signals that activate immune cells. The researchers observed that a particular TLR, TLR4, promoted allergic airway responses to antigen mixtures containing bacterial material or a very common allergen from house dust mites. Previously, it was unclear whether TLRs on non-immune epithelial cells at mucosal surfaces such as those in the lungs were involved in antigen sensing, or if it was TLRs found on immune cells in these areas that were critical to these allergic responses. The research team observed that TLR4 on airway epithelial cells, not on immune cells, helped induce the initial immune response to antigens in the lungs. Eliminating TLR4 or blocking TLR4 function on the airway epithelial cells reduced the recruitment of immune cells to the lungs and the development of allergic disease.

This study demonstrates that TLR4 found on non-immune cells in the lungs contributes to the immune response to airborne antigens. The new results suggest that targeting TLRs may be a research avenue for developing novel treatments for allergic diseases such as asthma.  
[http://www3.niaid.nih.gov/news/newsreleases/2009/allergens\\_TLR4.htm.htm](http://www3.niaid.nih.gov/news/newsreleases/2009/allergens_TLR4.htm.htm)

## MISCELLANEOUS

### **NATIONWIDE REPORT REVEALS THAT 1 IN 13 ADULTS EXPERIENCED MAJOR DEPRESSIVE EPISODE IN THE PAST YEAR. SAMSHA 5/19/2009**

An estimated 16.5 million people aged 18 years or older experienced at least one major depressive episode (MDE) in the past year and 64.5 percent of them received treatment, according to a new report released today by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

"Depression is a medical condition that should be treated with the same urgency as any other medical condition," said SAMHSA Acting Administrator Eric Broderick, D.D.S., M.P.H. "This study helps us gain better insight into how many people suffer from major depressive episodes, where they seek treatment, and why they don't. This information is critical to help inform health system reform."

<http://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/advisories/0905184956.aspx>

Full Report: <http://ncadistore.samhsa.gov/catalog/productDetails.aspx?ProductID=18127>



### **STUDY FINDS HIGHER SUICIDE RISK IN TEENS WHO SEE THEMSELVES AS OVERWEIGHT. Rita Jenkins. Daily News Central, 18 May 2009**

As if the many physical health concerns associated with the obesity epidemic weren't worrisome enough, new research shines a light on an alarming mental health connection: Teenagers who are overweight are at higher risk of attempting suicide. Even teens who merely believe themselves overweight -- but actually are not -- are more predisposed to suicidal behavior, the researchers found.

The study, which appears online in the *Journal of Adolescent Health*, looked at more than 14,000 high school students to determine the relationship between a high body mass index (BMI) and suicide attempts, as well as the relationship between perceived overweight and suicide attempts, and found higher risk in both cases. Contrary to what the researchers had originally expected, the association was as strong for boys as for girls, said lead study author Monica Swahn, PhD.

<http://health.dailynewscentral.com/content/view/0002678/31/>

### **POOR SLEEP LINKED TO HIGHER BMI. Rita Jenkins. Daily News Central, 17 May 2009**

A "good night's sleep" may be more important than we think. In addition to allowing us to feel rested, energetic and clear-thinking, studies have shown that there are connections between sleep and heart health. There also has been research demonstrating that sleep may affect body weight.

The latest to shed light on the sleep-weight connection is a study presented at the American Thoracic Society's 105th International Conference in San Diego, which indicates that body mass index, or BMI, is linked to length and quality of sleep in a surprisingly consistent fashion.

Researchers at Walter Reed Army Medical Center analyzed the sleep, activity and energy expenditures of 14 nurses who had volunteered for a heart-health program, part of the Integrative Cardiac Health Project. The program included nutritional counseling, exercise training, stress management and sleep improvement.

<http://health.dailynewscentral.com/content/view/0002677/89/>



### **MAKING IT EASIER FOR SCHOOL STAFF TO HELP TRAUMATIZED STUDENTS. Lisa H. Jaycox et al. RAND, May 2009**

Describes Support for Students Exposed to Trauma (SSET), a cognitive-behavioral program intended to be delivered in schools by teachers or school counselors rather than clinical personnel.

[http://www.rand.org/pubs/research\\_briefs/RB9443/](http://www.rand.org/pubs/research_briefs/RB9443/)

### **REPORT: CLIMATE CHANGE THREATENS HEALTH: Scientists Say Global Warming Will Increase Malaria and Other Diseases. By Salynn Boyles. WebMD Health News. May 13, 2009**

A newly released report identifies climate change as the biggest global health threat of the 21st century. If nothing is done, global warming could affect the health of billions of people throughout the world, with the poor suffering most, according to the report from the University College London and The Lancet. Deaths from heat waves, malaria, and other vector-borne diseases (diseases transmitted by sources such as mosquitoes or ticks) are projected to rise as global temperatures increase. But the report identifies food and water shortages and increasingly violent weather events as the biggest climate-change-related threats to human health.

<http://www.webmd.com/news/20090513/report-climate-change-threatens-health>



### **REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT AT SIGNING OF STEM CELL EXECUTIVE ORDER AND SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY PRESIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM. THE WHITE HOUSE, Office of the Press Secretary, March 9, 2009**

“Today, with the executive order I am about to sign, we will bring the change that so many scientists and researchers, doctors and innovators, patients and loved ones have hoped for, and fought for, these past eight years: We will lift the ban on federal funding for promising embryonic stem cell research. We will also vigorously support scientists who pursue this research. And we will

**President Obama Lifts Restrictions on Stem Cell Research.**

aim for America to lead the world in the discoveries it one day may yield.

At this moment, the full promise of stem cell research remains unknown, and it should not be overstated. But scientists believe these tiny cells may have the potential to help us understand, and possibly cure, some of our most devastating diseases and conditions: to regenerate a severed spinal cord and lift someone from a wheelchair; to spur insulin production and spare a child from a lifetime of needles; to treat Parkinson's, cancer, heart disease and others that affect millions of Americans and the people who love them.”

[http://italy.usembassy.gov/viewer/article.asp?article=/file2009\\_03/alia/a9030902.htm](http://italy.usembassy.gov/viewer/article.asp?article=/file2009_03/alia/a9030902.htm)

## **INCREASED SCRUTINY OF FLEA AND TICK CONTROL PRODUCTS FOR PETS. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. April 18, 2009.**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is intensifying its evaluation of spot-on pesticide products for flea and tick control for pets due to recent increases in the number of reported incidents. Adverse reactions reported range from mild effects such as skin irritation to more serious effects such as seizures and, in some cases, the death of pets.

Canada is also taking similar measures.

<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/health/flea-tick-control.html>

[HTML format, various paging].

## **SOLDIERS' STRESS: WHAT DOCTORS GET WRONG ABOUT PTSD. Dobbs, David. *Scientific American*, April 2009**

Summary: A growing number of experts insist that the concept of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is itself disordered and that soldiers are suffering as a result. The PTSD syndrome is under fire because its defining criteria are too broad, leading to rampant overdiagnosis. The flawed PTSD concept may mistake soldiers' natural process of adjustment to civilian life for dysfunction. Misdiagnosed soldiers receive the wrong treatments and risk becoming mired in a Veterans Administration system that encourages chronic disability.

Currently available online at

<http://www.sciam.com/article.cfm?id=post-traumatic-stress-trap>



## **GUIDELINES ON THE PROVISION OF MANUAL WHEELCHAIRS IN LESS RESOURCED SETTINGS 2008. WHO, 21 April 2009**

These guidelines, developed for use in less resourced settings, address the design, production, supply and service delivery of manual wheelchairs. The recommendations are mainly targeted at people involved in wheelchair services, ranging from design and planning, to providing or supplying wheelchairs and their maintenance.

[http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2008/9789241547482\\_eng.pdf](http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2008/9789241547482_eng.pdf)

**Articles on health issues are available at**

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